

WORDPRESS TEMPLATE HIERARCHY

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BEFORE: ONE UNIVERSAL LAYOUT

Basic site wireframe:

- Header
- Navigation
- Content
- Sidebar
- Footer



WHY LEARN ABOUT HIERARCHY?

Unique and
customizable layouts
(WP for a blog)

Automatic template
rendering
(WP as a CMS)

WHY IS THIS GOOD FOR BLOGS?

- Be creative with layouts
- Design different layouts for different purposes
- Give visitors more points of entry

WHY IS IT GOOD FOR CMS SITES?

- Create different designs for each of your static pages
- Design templates will be applied automatically

THE BARE NECESSITIES

index.php
styles.css

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THREE LEVELS OF CUSTOMIZATION

WP Managed pages
WP Assisted pages
Static Pages

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THE HARD WAY

Use conditional tags

```
if (is_home()) {  
    Do something  
}
```


THE EASIER WAY

Use separate template files

- **Easier to understand**
- **Easier to manage**

THE FALLBACK SYSTEM

How WordPress Decides

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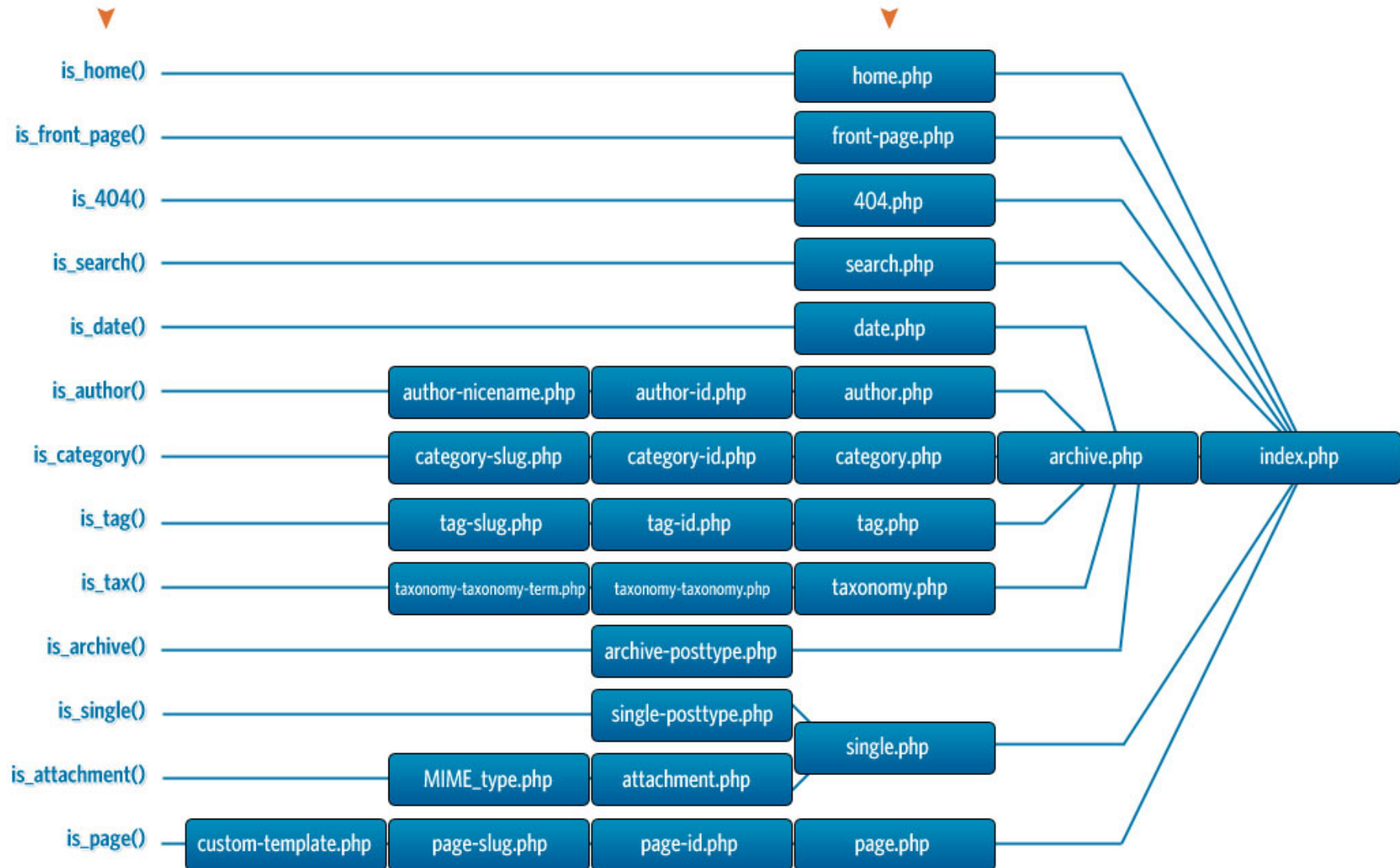
Category 'Foo', ID 4



1. **category-foo.php**
2. **category-4.php**
3. **category.php**
4. **archive.php**
5. **index.php**

what page
are we on?

what page template will be used by default?



Note the "fallback" system... if any template isn't present, WordPress simply uses the next in line until it gets to index.php

JUST A FEW HIERARCHY PAGES

404.php

archive.php

attachment.php

author.php

category.php

comments.php

date.php

footer.php

front-page.php

functions.php

home.php

index.php

page.php

search.php

searchform.php

sidebar.php

single.php

single-custom.php

tag.php

taxonomy.php

CUSTOM POST TYPES

Portfolios, products, music, etc.

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AUTOMATIC TEMPLATE RENDERING

`page-{slug}.php`
`category-{name}.php`
`author-{name}.php`

DEMO

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QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU!

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RESOURCES

WordPress Codex:

http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Hierarchy

http://codex.wordpress.org/Theme_Development#Query-based_Template_Files

Digging Into WordPress (Chris Coyier and Jeff Starr)

<http://digwp.com/2010/09/wordpress-3-template-hierarchy/>

WP Tuts +

<http://wp.tutsplus.com/tutorials/the-wordpress-theme-files-execution-hierarchy/>

This Presentation:

<http://bit.ly/WPThierarchy>